

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 5, 2012

**OPENING DAY ROSTERS FEATURE 243 PLAYERS BORN OUTSIDE THE U.S.  
28.4 Percent of Players Are Foreign-Born, Spanning 15 Countries and Territories**

Two-hundred forty-three players on 2012 Opening Day 25-man rosters and inactive lists were born outside the 50 United States, it was announced today. This year's percentage of 28.4 marks the third highest of all-time and is up from 27.7 in both 2010 and 2011.

The 243 players born outside the United States came from a pool of 856 players (749 active 25-man roster players and 107 disabled or restricted Major League players) on April 4<sup>th</sup> rosters and represent 15 countries and territories outside the U.S. The 28.4 percent trails only 2005, when 29.2 percent (242/829) of Opening Day players were foreign-born, and 2007, when 246 players – 29.0 percent of all players – were born outside the U.S. In addition, this year's 243 foreign-born players rank as the second-most in history, trailing only the 2007 high of 246. Last season, 234 out of 846 players were foreign-born, totaling 27.7 percent.



The Dominican Republic again leads the Major Leagues with 95 players born outside the U.S, which is the second-most the nation has produced on Opening Day rosters, behind its 99 in 2007. Venezuela ranks second with 66 players, its highest total ever on Opening Day rosters. Canada ranks third with 15 players, followed by Japan (13); Cuba (11); Puerto Rico (11); Mexico (9); Panama (7); Curaçao (4); Australia (4); Nicaragua (3); Taiwan (2); Colombia (1); Italy (1); and South Korea (1). The three Nicaraguan-born players are the most on Opening Day rosters since 1995, when MLB began to release annual Opening Day data. Cuba matched its high of 11 set in 2002 and 2011, and Curaçao tied its high of four set in 2009. In addition, infielder Alex Liddi, the first Italian-born and developed player to play Major League Baseball after debuting last September, made the Seattle Mariners' Opening Day roster. Liddi, 23, is just the seventh Italian-born player in Major League history and the first since infielder Reno Bertoia in 1962. Liddi is the first alumnus of the MLB International European Academy, which was established in 2005, to make an Opening Day roster.

The Kansas City Royals, the hosts of the 2012 All-Star Game, have the most foreign-born players with a total of 13, followed by the Colorado Rockies and the New York Yankees, who each have 12. Three Clubs – the Milwaukee Brewers, the New York Mets and the Mariners – each have 11 foreign-born players. The Yankees have players from seven different countries and territories outside the United States: Canada, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Panama, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

Please see below for the complete list of foreign-born players on 2012 Opening Day rosters.

# # #

**Contact:** Patrick Courtney or Michael Teevan, Major League Baseball, (212) 931-7878, [twitter.com/mlb\\_pr](https://twitter.com/mlb_pr).

**AUSTRALIA (4)**

Balfour, Grant, OAK
Hendriks, Liam, MIN
Hughes, Luke, MIN
Thompson, Richard, LAA

**CANADA (15)**

Axford, John, MIL
Bay, Jason, NYM
Bedard, Erik, PIT
Crain, Jesse, CWS
Dempster, Ryan, CHI
Hawksworth, Blake, LAD
Kottaras, George, MIL
Lawrie, Brett, TOR
Leroux, Chris, PIT
Martin, Russell, NYY
Morneau, Justin, MIN
Nickeas, Mike, NYM
Orr, Pete, PHI
Saunders, Michael, SEA
Votto, Joey, CIN

**COLOMBIA (1)**

Frieri, Ernesto, SD
---------------------

**CUBA (11)**

Alonso, Yonder, SD
Betancourt, Yuniesky, KC
Cespedes, Yoenis, OAK
Chapman, Aroldis, CIN
Contreras, Jose, PHI
Escobar, Yunel, TOR
Hernandez, Livan, ATL
Morales, Kendrys, LAA
Pena, Brayan, KC
Ramirez, Alexei, CWS
Viciedo, Dayan, CWS

**CURACAO (4)**

Bernadina, Roger, WSH
Jansen, Kenley, LAD
Jones, Andruw, NYY
Jurrjens, Jair, ATL

**DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC (95)**

Abad, Fernando, HOU
Alburquerque, Al, DET
Arredondo, Jose, CIN
Asencio, Jairo, CLE
Aybar, Erick, LAA
Bastardo, Antonio, PHI
Batista, Miguel, NYM
Bautista, Jose, TOR
Beato, Pedro, NYM
Beltre, Adrian, TEX
Benoit, Joaquin, DET
Betemit, Wilson, BAL
Bonifacio, Emilio, MIA
Cabral, Cesar, NYY
Cabrera, Melky, SF
Cano, Robinson, NYY
Carreno, Joel, TOR
Casilla, Alexi, MIN
Casilla, Santiago, SF
Castillo, Lendy, CHI
Castro, Starlin, CHI
Ceda, Jose, MIA
Colon, Bartolo, OAK
Constanza, Jose, ATL
Cordero, Francisco, TOR
Cruz, Arnoldi, STL
Cruz, Juan, PIT
Cruz, Nelson, TEX
Cruz, Rhiner, HOU
Cueto, Johnny, CIN
De Aza, Alejandro, CWS
De La Rosa, Rubby, LAD
De Los Santos, Fautino, OAK
Dolis, Rafael, CHI
Dotel, Octavio, DET
Encarnacion, Edwin, TOR
Feliz, Neftali, TEX
Francisco, Frank, NYM
Francisco, Juan, ATL
Furcal, Rafael, STL
Gomez, Carlos, MIL
Gomez, Hector, COL
Hernandez, Roberto, CLE

Herrera, Kelvin, KC
Jimenez, Ubaldo, CLE
Liriano, Francisco, MIN
Marmol, Carlos, CHI
Marte, Luis, DET
Martinez, Cristhian, ATL
Martinez, Michael, PHI
Mateo, Marcos, CHI
Mota, Guillermo, SF
Navarro, Yamaico, PIT
Nicasio, Juan, COL
Noesi, Hector, SEA
Norberto, Jordan, OAK
Nova, Ivan, NYY
Nunez, Eduardo, NYY
Nunez, Gustavo, PIT
Ogando, Alexi, TEX
Olivo, Miguel, SEA
Ortiz, David, BOS
Oviedo, Juan Carlos, MIA
Paulino, Felipe, KC
Paulino, Ronny, BAL
Pena, Carlos, TB
Peralta, Jhonny, DET
Peralta, Joel, TB
Perez, Luis, TOR
Perez, Rafael, CLE
Pineda, Michael, NYY
Polanco, Placido, PHI
Pujols, Albert, LAA
Ramirez, Aramis, MIL
Ramirez, Hanley, MIA
Ramirez, Ramon, NYM
Reyes, Jose, MIA
Rodney, Fernando, TB
Rodriguez, Wandy, HOU
Rogers, Esmil, COL
Rosario, Wilin, COL
Santana, Carlos, CLE
Santana, Ervin, LAA
Santiago, Ramon, DET
Simon, Alfredo, CIN
Soriano, Alfonso, CHI
Soriano, Rafael, NYY

Strop, Pedro, BAL
Uribe, Juan, LAD
Valdez, Wilson, CIN
Valverde, Jose, DET
Veras, Jose, MIL
Villanueva, Carlos, TOR
Vizcaino, Arodys, ATL
Volquez, Edinson, SD

### **ITALY (1)**

Liddi, Alex, SEA
------------------

### **JAPAN (13)**

Aoki, Norichika, MIL
Darvish, Yu, TEX
Fukudome, Kosuke, CWS
Iwakuma, Hisashi, SEA
Kawasaki, Munenori, SEA
Kuroda, Hiroki, NYY
Matsuzaka, Daisuke, BOS
Saito, Takashi, ARI
Suzuki, Ichiro, SEA
Takahashi, Hisanori, LAA
Tateyama, Yoshinori, TEX
Uehara, Koji, TEX
Wada, Tsuyoshi, BAL

### **MEXICO (9)**

Aceves, Alfredo, BOS
Ayala, Luis, BAL
De La Rosa, Jorge, COL
Estrada, Marco, MIL
Gallardo, Yovani, MIL
Garcia, Jaime, STL
Mendoza, Luis, KC
Salas, Fernando, STL
Soria, Joakim, KC

### **NICARAGUA (3)**

Lopez, Wilton, HOU
Padilla, Vicente, BOS
Ramirez, Erasmo, SEA

### **PANAMA (7)**

Acosta, Manny, NYM
Chen, Bruce, KC
Delgado, Randall, ATL

Lee, Carlos, HOU
Rivera, Mariano, NYY
Ruiz, Carlos, PHI
Tejada, Ruben, NYM

### **PUERTO RICO (11)**

Beltran, Carlos, STL
De Jesus, Ivan, LAD
Feliciano, Pedro, NYY
Lopez, Javier, SF
Molina, Jose, TB
Molina, Yadier, STL
Pagan, Angel, SF
Romero, J.C., STL
Sanchez, Jonathan, KC
Soto, Geovany, CHI
Torres, Andres, NYM

### **SOUTH KOREA (1)**

Choo, Shin-Soo, CLE
---------------------

### **TAIWAN (2)**

Chen, Wei-Yin, BAL
Wang, Chien-Ming, WSH

### **VENEZUELA (66)**

Abreu, Bobby, LAA
Alfonzo, Eliezer, COL
Altuve, Jose, HOU
Alvarez, Henderson, TOR
Amarista, Alexi, LAA
Andrus, Elvis, TEX
Belisario, Ronald, LAD
Betancourt, Rafael, COL
Blanco, Gregor, SF
Blanco, Henry, ARI
Cabrera, Asdrubal, CLE
Cabrera, Miguel, DET
Cairo, Miguel, CIN
Callaspo, Alberto, LAA
Carrasco, Carlos, CLE
Cedeno, Ronny, NYM
Chacin, Jhoulys, COL
Chavez, Endy, BAL
Chirinos, Robinson, TB
Doubtront, Felix, BOS
Escalona, Sergio, HOU
Escobar, Alcides, KC

Escobar, Eduardo, CWS
Flores, Jesus, WSH
Galvis, Freddy, PHI
Garcia, Freddy, NYY
Gomez, Jeanmar, CLE
Gonzalez, Alberto, TEX
Gonzalez, Alex, MIL
Gonzalez, Carlos, COL
Gonzalez, Marwin, HOU
Gutierrez, Franklin, SEA
Guzman, Jesus, SD
Hernandez, Felix, SEA
Hernandez, Ramon, COL
Herrera, Jonathan, COL
Infante, Omar, MIA
Izturis, Cesar, MIL
Izturis, Maicer, LAA
Lobaton, Jose, TB
Lopez, Jose, CLE
Martinez, Victor, DET
Mijares, Jose, KC
Montero, Jesus, SEA
Montero, Miguel, ARI
Morales, Franklin, BOS
Mujica, Edward, MIA
Parra, Gerardo, ARI
Perez, Salvador, KC
Pina, Manny, KC
Prado, Martin, ATL
Quintero, Humberto, KC
Ramos, Wilson, WSH
Rivera, Juan, LAD
Rodriguez, Francisco, MIL
Rodriguez, Henry, WSH
Sanchez, Anibal, MIA
Sanchez, Hector, SF
Sandoval, Pablo, SF
Santana, Johan, NYM
Scutaro, Marco, COL
Tabata, Jose, PIT
Torrealba, Yorvit, TEX
Valbuena, Luis, CHI
Vizquel, Omar, TOR
Zambrano, Carlos, MIA